



**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes - FINAL
September 14, 2017**

Members Present: Mina Liebert, Gary Feffer, Jason Rupinski, Carol Beckman, Hank Scarangella, Daniel Bowman

Members Absent: David Siegel, Ron Ilgen

Alternates Present: Michael Phan

Alternates Absent: Brooks Williams

Staff Present: Karen Palus, Britt Haley, Kurt Schroeder, Kim King, Christi Mehew

Called to Order: Board Chair Mina Liebert brought the meeting to order at 7:34 a.m.

Announcements

Mina Liebert, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Chair announced Gary Bostrom's passing and stated he has been a friend to the Parks Department and to the community for many years. He was a board member for the past year and that his work and legacy will be dearly missed. His family has shared they are accepting donations through their church for two organizations and information was distributed to the board. The board as well as Colorado Springs Utilities will be doing something in honor of Gary Bostrom once the family is ready.

Cory Sutela, Medicine Wheel Bicycle Advocates, encouraged signage stating what trails EBikes are allowed on according to state legislation. Manufacturers are stating incorrect information which is causing a lot of confusion and signage would be helpful.

Raymond Carr, Pikes Peak Flying Disc Club, gave an update on the Rampart Course. The club is involved in hosting tournaments at the state level and events are selling out quickly and they hope to make this a destination spot for disc players. Future projects include an 18-hole course going in at Cripple Creek. Once the Rampart Disc Course is completed the club will work with the Cottonwood Creek Disc Club on the Cottonwood Creek Course.

Jim Coonradt, Cottonwood Disc Club, stated they are looking forward to new signage and the redesign of the Cottonwood Creek Course.

Pat Doyle, Old North End Neighborhood Historic Preservation representative, gave an update on the completion of the signs that were constructed at entrances throughout the Old North End neighborhood. Pictures of the signs were displayed on the screen. She thanked various

park staff for their support and asked the board to attend the dedication on September 16, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. at the corner of North Cascade Avenue and Uintah Street. Invitations were distributed to the Board.

Larry Smoll, Fountain Creek Watershed, announced Creek Week is the end of the month and it is a time to make sure the creeks are clean and safe. He distributed a folder to the Board regarding the Fountain Creek Watershed and Creek Week.

Allison Plute, Colorado Springs Utilities, stated Creek Week is the largest clean up in Colorado and many people come together for this program. September 30th is the kickoff date and gear is provided for all volunteers. Fountain Creek has partnered with local breweries to form the Fountain Creek Brewshed Alliance to engage citizens in conversations that help protect our water.

Susan Davies, Trails and Open Spaces Coalition (TOSC) Executive Director

- TOSC last night had a membership celebration and celebrated the coalition being 30 years old.
- She encouraged the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to get the message out about the Stormwater Initiative and to ask citizens to please vote this November.
- Trail connections and trails are damaged when events occur and they need to be fixed. She hopes money will be released from the General Fund to go towards park related projects if the Stormwater Initiative passes in November.
- County Commissioners have voted to put a TABOR refund on the ballot. Bear Creek will benefit if this passes in November and it will be great for parks and sustainable funding.

Approval of Minutes – July 13, 2017

Motion: A motion to approve the July 13, 2017 minutes.

1st – Hank Scarangella, 2nd – Carol Beckman, Approved, Unanimous

Action Items

Colorado College – Cascade Avenue Median and Cross Walk Closure (Presented by Britt Haley, Parks Design and Development Manager and Tim Siebert, NES, Principal)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

The PowerPoint presentation included: Colorado College Campus; project site; academic walk; existing conditions; proposed site plan; overall site plan; a map; and questions and comments.

The project includes proposed median modifications on Cascade Avenue associated with a Development Plan for the Colorado College Central Campus which supports the addition of the Academic Walk. The plan encompasses the northwest parking area located to the north of Tutt Library. The area of campus that is included in this amendment is 4.64 acres and zoned special use (SU) consistent with all of the college properties.

The proposed changes support the addition of the Academic Walk, which will provide a connection from East Campus Housing to the academic buildings on central campus and to the west side of Cascade Avenue. The Academic Walk will be 16-feet in width and will meet Colorado Spring's Fire Department (CSFD) apparatus loading requirements to provide fire department access through the central campus from Nevada Avenue to Cascade Avenue.

There is a proposed crosswalk location north of Tutt Library where the Academic Walk will cross Cascade Avenue. At this location, the Cascade median is to be closed to allow for greater vehicular and pedestrian safety. Two existing crosswalks, one located to the north of the proposed crosswalk and one to the south, are to be closed and consolidated into one crosswalk at the Academic Walk.

The existing parking lot adjacent to the north side of Tutt Library is to be removed and the access point at Cascade Avenue closed. The small parking area between Dern House and Mierow House is to be closed as well. In order to maintain the same number of parking spaces, the parking lot immediately to the south of Breton Hall is to be expanded, the temporary lot to the east of the large existing lot is to be expanded and made permanent, and the existing lot to the north of Dern and Mierow Houses is to be modified to gain additional spaces. There is an overall gain of four (4) parking spaces.

The one-way access points off of Uintah Street are to be combined into one two-way access point, which will allow for easier vehicular circulation. As indicated on the plan, a fire lane is provided from the proposed entrance at Uintah to the south through the parking lot and along the east side of Tutt Library.

The current medians have many jaywalkers and the academic walk will encourage safer passage over Cascade and additional landscaping will be installed to help with this issue.

Board member Carol Beckman inquired about the number of crosswalks. Tim Siebert stated they will be consolidating them to two crosswalks, they will be signed and the crosswalk on Nevada will remain.

Board member Jason Rupinski asked if there are any rules or regulations for historic medians. Tim Siebert replied they will work with Colorado College and meet their standards and needs for a landscape design that is esthetically pleasing as well as discourages jaywalking. Kurt Schroeder, Park Operations and Maintenance Manager stated that staff will not approve of the project if it is detrimental to the integrity of the historic medians.

Board Chair Mina Liebert inquired if there are any public comments or concerns about the crosswalk changes. Tim Siebert replied the community is estatic about this project and the safety it will impose. The crosswalk near the Tutt library is the 3rd busiest crosswalk and the intent is to have students use the north or south entrance rather than going west and this will discourage jaywalking. The design has been developed to keep pedestrian traffic where it needs to be and to increase safety.

Motion: Move approval of the proposed Cascade Avenue median modifications associated with a Development Plan for the Colorado College Central Campus.

1st – Jason Rupinski, 2nd – Carol Beckman, Approved, Unanimous

Presentation

Colorado College Median Signage (Presented by Tim Siebert, NES, Principal)

Presented after the action item Colorado College Median Modifications

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

The PowerPoint presentation included: existing median signs; proposed median signs; Cascade Avenue - proposed median sign; Nevada Avenue – proposed median sign; proposed median sign design details and questions/comments.

Action Item's continued

Mid Shooks Run Community Garden (Presented by David Deitemeyer, Park Planner)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

The PowerPoint presentation included: Park System Master plan; Pikes Peak Urban Gardens; Community Gardens; Mid Shooks Run Park; proposed location; proposed garden features; pictures of current community gardens; public comments; Pikes Peak Urban Gardens agreement with the Parks Department; next steps; and a recommendation.

The project is a proposed master plan amendment to Mid Shooks Run Park for the addition of a community garden near the intersection of East Boulder Street and North El Paso Street. The proposed garden will be managed by Pikes Peak Urban Gardens (PPUG).

The location will serve the areas of eastern downtown with a place to garden while providing PPUG the ability to effectively manage and promote gardening from their offices across the street.

In agreement with the Parks Department, PPUG will operate, manage and maintain the community garden. PPUG will be responsible for the funding, construction, management and oversight of the garden plots. The city will provide water for the gardens; however, PPUG will be responsible for the costs of water associated with the gardens.

The proposed gardens (approximately 7200 sf) will include space for 20 to 30 - 4' x 8' raised garden plots, an apiary (bee hive), fruit trees, berry bushes, benches, small art work and a small greenhouse/tool shed. The plots will be made available for lease for a fee through PPUG. The fees will cover the costs of management of the gardens by PPUG, use of a garden plot, use of community tools, use of the greenhouse as well as the cost of water. The gardens will be

enclosed by a 6' tall wire fence for security and deer protection with an ornamental wood locking gate.

Some minor modifications to the existing site will include removing declining trees and conducting minor grading to improve the gardens accessibility and improve the layout.

PPUG presented at the Mid Shooks Run Neighborhood meeting in May of 2017 to introduce the concept to the neighborhood. They gathered feedback from interested gardeners and started a garden plot reservation list. PPUG also began fundraising specifically for the Mid Shooks Run Community Gardens. To date they have raised about \$6,500 of the \$9,000 needed for the construction of the gardens. Timberline Landscaping Inc. has committed to providing in-kind services to trench the water line from the water meter to the gardens.

A public meeting was held on August 31st, 2017 and twenty individuals attended. The concept was well received. Primary concerns and questions were geared more towards the management of the community garden (including rules and regulations when renting gardens). In addition, there were concerns regarding additional parking and traffic along North El Paso Street because of the gardens. The intent would be to serve the neighbors that live within walking distance of the gardens.

David Deitemeyer introduced Larry Stebbins and Tally Kerr, Pikes Peak Urban Gardens. They have been a tremendous resource from an educational standpoint and serve schools, neighborhoods, hospitals, and businesses.

Board member Carol Beckman inquired about: the common areas, clean up, plot description, utilization of current gardens, the opportunity to expand the garden, location of gate access and parking. Tally Kerr replied:

- The common areas exist throughout the garden. People are responsible for their own plot and volunteers will help maintain the common areas. Owners are to clean their own plot and to mulch.
- Plots have raised beds that are level and clean. They are the only permanent structures in the garden.
- Current garden plots are fully utilized and a wait list exists on some garden plots. This community garden already has 50% of the plots reserved. The cost is \$20.00 - \$50.00 per plot which is very reasonable in comparison to other community gardens.
- There is not an opportunity to expand at this time as they will utilize the entire space; however, there may be more space across Boulder Street which can be considered in the future.
- The gate access is on the east side of the project location. David Deitemeyer showed it on a map.
- They will be encouraging neighbors to walk and ride their bikes to the gardens rather than drive.

Board member Daniel Bowman stated that PPUG is a great organization and asked if a buffer exists from the trail. David Deitemeyer replied that there is a four foot offset from the trail which is standard.

Board member Gary Feffer asked about the houses immediately north and west of the garden. Tally Kerr replied that there is one house nearby and the owner has been taken advantage of by certain individuals. The fence is bordering the house but access to the garden is on the other side and will not impede the entrance and exit of their home. David Deitemeyer stated letters were sent to any owner within 500 feet of the proposed garden and this owner did not respond.

Board member Gary Feffer stated that Shooks Run is a fifty year plan and this garden is key in showing the plan is moving forward and action is being taken.

Board member Jason Rupinski inquired if a separate water meter will be installed to monitor the water usage. David Deitemeyer replied yes.

Board member Jason Rupinski asked how the fence will be built with several adjacent neighbors involved. David Deitemeyer stated this discussion occurred at the public meeting.

Board Chair Mina Liebert stated she has worked with Larry Stebbins for many years. He is very thorough with setting up gardens and his work is phenomenal. PPUG offers classes and they are always attended at capacity. She has full confidence in their fundraising abilities for this community garden.

Susan Davies, TOSC Executive Director stated that TOSC are neighbors of the proposed community garden and are very excited about this project which will create more visibility for the area. Hopefully this will encourage more community gardens to be built.

Motion: A motion recommending the approval of the Shooks Run Community Garden, amending the Mid Shooks Run Park Master Plan.

1st – Carol Beckman, 2nd – Jason Rupinski, Approved, Unanimous

TOPS Reappointments (Presented by Britt Haley, Parks Design and Development Manager)

Britt Haley announced those recommended to be reappointed to the TOPS Working Committee which included: Joe Lavorini, Lee Milner and Jim Klever. Lily Weissgold was recommended for the TOPS Working Committee alternate position.

Motion: Move approval of the reappointments and appointment to the TOPS Working Committee as presented above.

1st – Hank Scarangella, 2nd – Jason Rupinski, Approved, Unanimous

Ceremonial items (10:00 a.m. certain)

TOPS 20th Anniversary Event Recognition (Presented by Karen Palus, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director). Awards were presented to:

- Thayer Tutt, El Pomar Foundation President and Chief Investment Officer and Melissa Wills, El Pomar Foundation Fellow and Program Associate
- Priscilla Marbaker, Tapis Principal and Owner
- Richard Wadlow, Musco Colorado Sales Representative

Pioneer Museum Foundation (Presented by Matt Mayberry, Cultural Services Division Manager) Awards were presented to Jon Medved, Harry Gautsche, and Sam Epley.

Living History Association 40th Anniversary (Presented by Matt Mayberry, Cultural Services Division Manager) Awards were presented to Ron Wright, Jo Kilday, Chipley Gordon and Karol Roe (not present).

Presentations Continued

Ethics Training (Presented by Renee Congdon, Senior Attorney)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

The PowerPoint presentation included: Origin of City Code of Ethics; purpose of City Code of Ethics; why should you care; primary areas of concerns; gifts – general rule; gifts – what is a gift; gifts – immediate family members; gifts - exceptions to the ban on gifts; gifts – inappropriate hospitality or gifts; conflicts of interest; conflicts of interest general rule; what is a conflict of interest; confidential information; conflicts of interest examples; conflicts of interest what should you do - appearance of impropriety; Independent Ethics Commission (IEC) jurisdiction and HR jurisdiction; IEC creation/purpose and subpoena/recommendations; IEC complaints and inquiries; IEC frivolous complaints/inquiries and nonfrivolous/formal complaints/inquiries; IEC - Council action; IEC final action/penalty; IEC legal representation; advisory opinions; many ethical issues are not clear cut; and contact information.

Indigo Ranch Park Site Concept Plan (Presented by Britt Haley, Parks Design and Development Manager and Chris Lieber, NES)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

The PowerPoint presentation included: map of location; site exhibit; indigo Ranch at Stetson Ridge Filing No.8; development review process; and park concept plan.

Recreation Services Update (Presented by Kim King, Recreation and Administration Manager)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

The PowerPoint presentation included: welcome to Recreation Services; City Auditorium; Community Centers and Therapeutic Recreation Program (TRP); TRP Adaptive Water Ski Program; Sertich Ice Center; adult sports; youth sports; and questions.

Staff present included: Jody Derington, Joan Clemons, Brian Kates, Felicia Barnhart, Sarah Braun and Pam Ingrassia.

Staff Reports

2018 Budget Update (Presented by Karen Palus, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director)

- Budget meetings will be held on October 16th from 12:00 - 4:30 p.m. as part of the City Council work session and October 19th at 7:30 p.m. will be the primary formal budget meeting.
- The 2018 budget is looking the same as 2017. However, the department will possibly be receiving a portion of the cable franchise fee.
- The projects under review by the Budget Committee include: expanding services to the downtown parks and the ability to staff these areas; funding to meet the forestry needs and tree requirements; operational dollars for Sertich Ice Center; one Community Center support staff position; additional dollars allocated due to the Deerfield Hills remodel; and additional operational dollars allocated for John Venezia Community Park.
- The Mayor has established and forwarded a balanced budget to the Budget Committee and is waiting for their feedback.

Venezia Community Park Update (Presented by Karen Palus, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director)

The PowerPoint presentation included: the cost of John Venezia Community Park; protecting our park assets; security funding for cameras; funding breakdown; and questions.

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

- Karen Palus approached the Budget Committee for consideration of a supplemental appropriation for the John Venezia Community Park cameras.
- Vandalism damage is estimated at \$80,000.
- The off-duty officers cost for security is estimated at \$125,000.
- The cost for cameras is estimated at \$325,000.
- City Council felt very strongly to consider this as an emergency fund request.

Board Business

Board Photos (Photographed by David Deitemeyer) Board photos were not taken due to the absence of two members.

Karen Palus

- The Park Land Dedication Ordinance (PLDO) workshop will be held on Friday, September 15th at 1:00 p.m.
- The City Council/Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting will be held on Monday, September 18th at 9:00 a.m. in the City Hall building.
- The Garden of the Gods restroom project is in need of a Parks Board representative to attend meetings and assist with the planning process. Carol Beckman agreed to be the representative for this project.
- The Corral Bluffs expansion property acquisition documents were officially signed today.

Carol Beckman

- Stated she would like to do some kind of tribute in memory of Gary Bostrom. Karen Palus said to please go forward with anything the board would like to do and she will forward it to the family. CSU is also looking to have a significant place named after him.
- She attended the North Cheyenne Canon Master Plan preparation meeting on September 8th and the first public meeting is on Tuesday, September 19th at 6:00 p.m. at Cheyenne Mountain High School.

Daniel Bowan shared his background with the Board. He is an Assistant Professor of Recreation and Outdoor Leadership at Colorado State University, Pueblo and prior to this role he was the Manager of Outdoor Recreation at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs.

Mina Liebert stated the LART Committee will meet next month to discuss the budget and the Garden of the Gods Foundation meeting was held on August 25th and various projects were approved.

Hank Scarangella stated the transportation study for the Garden of the Gods is underway and is funded by the Garden of the Gods Foundation. The City has a contract with VOLPE to conduct the study and two stakeholder meetings have been held. VOLPE will present recommendations and then the public process will begin. The Friends of Garden of the Gods helped conduct a survey and collect data. Parking is the major issue and options are being discussed. The deed does not include anything about the park being forever free; however, the deed does refer to a plaque in the garden and the plaque states the park will be free.

Jason Rupinski attended the TOPS Working Committee meeting in July. The Stratton Open Space forest restoration project was presented and there was discussion and interest in readdressing the stewardship fund.

[Link to handouts distributed during meeting](#)

Adjournment

Motion: Move to adjourn at 12:05 p.m.

1st – Hank Scarangella, 2nd – Daniel Bowan, Approved, Unanimous